Oil Palm

3328. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil palm is the highest yielder of oil per hectare and also the cheapest;

(b) whether it is also a fact that chemical characteristics of oil palm is also conducive to human health preservation; and

(c) if so, what are the steps being taken by Technology Mission on oil seeds for exploiting the untapped source so as to overcome edible oil shortage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A number of schemes have been sanctioned during 1990-91 and 1991-92 in the identified States for the promotion of oil palm cultivation during Eighth Plan which include expansion of seed germinator at Palode, frontline demonstration in Karnataka, demonstration of processing of oil palm in Andhra Pradesh, establishment of three oil palm seed gardens, eleven oil palm nurseries to raise oil palm planting material, comprehensive training programme and distribution of palm seedlings for area expansion programmes.

Central Warehousing Corporation

3329. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Warehousing at Metiaburuz-I has been making profit continuously for the last 10 years;

(b) whether the Central Warehousing Corporation management has been trying to close it down and has advised State Trading Corporation to shift its stocks to other godowns; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action has been taken to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Central Warehouse, Metiabruz-I had been making profits continuously for the last ten year, 1983-84 when it suffered a loss.

(b) So far, there is no proposal to close it down.

(c) Does not arise.

Damage of Newsprint Reels in Central Warehousing Corporation

3330. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether newsprint reels were damaged at Kantapuyran godown under Central Warehousing Corporation. Calcutta region, in 1991 and 1992;

(b) if so. what are the reasons thereof;

(c) whether any damage had to be paid for the lapse; and

(d) what was the action for the lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The damage to newsprint reels occurred when water entered in one of the five godowns hired by the Central Warehousing Corporation from the Calcutta Port Trust at Kantapukur due to choking of underground drain during heavy rains in Calcutta in August, 1991. Under similar circumstances, water again entered in one of the godowns in June and July, 1992.

(c) Since the stocks are insured, the Corporation was not required to pay for the damage.